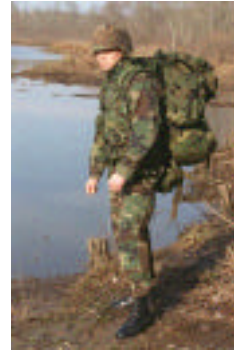


## Modular Lightweight Load Carrying Equipment (MOLLE)

### DESCRIPTION

MOLLE is a fully integrated, modular load bearing system consisting of a load bearing vest with butt pack, main ruck with sustainment pouches and sleeping bag compartment attached to an external frame. There is also a patrol pack, which can be used separately or combined with the main ruck for added load carrying capability. MOLLE can be configured in several different variations to fit the load handling needs of the mission. The load-bearing vest is always worn and holds pockets for magazines and hand grenades. A connecting device on the vest is designed so that the external frame of the main ruck attaches to the waist belt of the vest to transfer the load from the shoulders and back to the hips where it can be carried much easier with less fatigue. There are also different variations of the load-bearing vest for each member of a squad. These configurations include a rifleman, pistol, squad automatic weapon, grenadier, and corpsman configuration.



PROCUREMENT PROFILE:	FY00	FY01
<i>Quantity:</i>	<i>11,289</i>	<i>33,662</i>

### OPERATIONAL IMPACT

MOLLE will increase the combat effectiveness of Marines in the field by reducing fatigue and injury. A unique ergonomic design permits most of the weight of the load to be borne on the wearer's hips. This design reduces the burden on a Marine's shoulders and back to lessen muscle fatigue and heat stress.

### PROGRAM STATUS

Fielding is currently underway. FOC is expected by FY05.

### DEVELOPER/MANUFACTURER

Specialty Defense Systems, Dunmore, PA